

# EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*October 1, 2023*

*10:00am*

# GATHERING

**Prelude**

Prelude in C

J. S. Bach

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin,  
receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess**

**that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,  
and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father,

and of the † Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn** God Is Here!

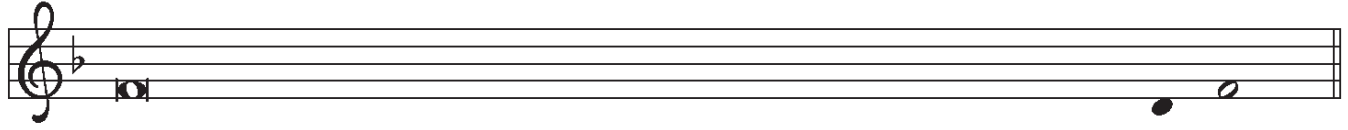
#526

# Apostolic Greeting

## Kyrie



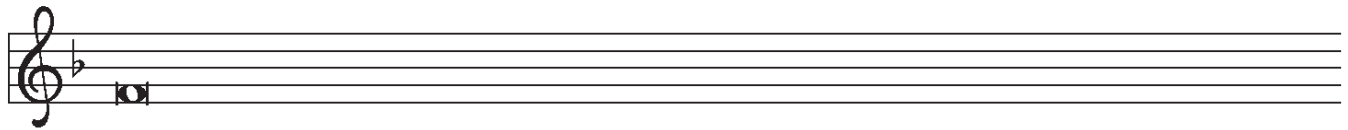
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



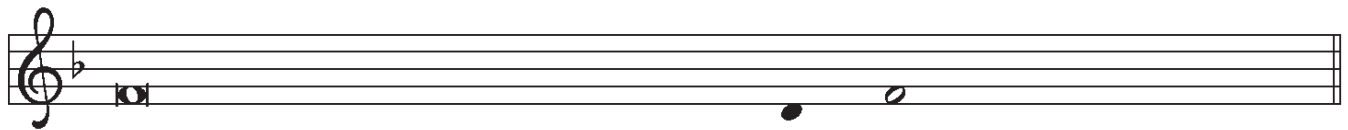
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



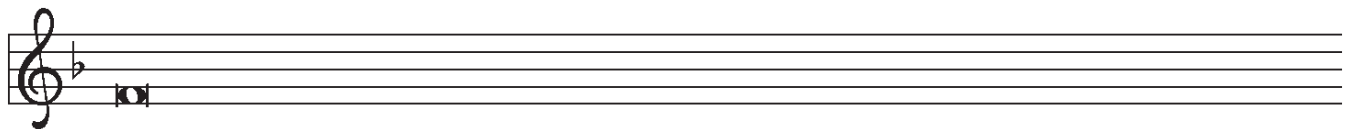
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



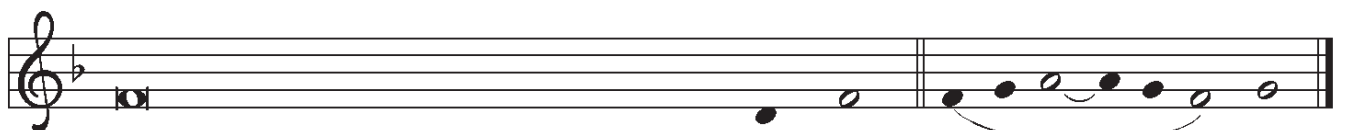
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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## WORD

### Children's Message

#### First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

#### Second Reading: Philippians 1:21–30

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
    <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence,  
but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;  
<sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good  
pleasure.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem**                      Praise His Holy Name

*arr. Keith Hampton*

Sing till the power of the lord come down.  
Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy Name!  
Sing till the power of the Lord come down,  
Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name!

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me:  
I once was lost, but now I'm found, Was blind, but now I see.

Jesus, Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah!  
Must Jesus bear the cross alone And all the world go free?  
No, there's a cross for everyone And there's a cross for me.

Jesus, Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah!  
Let us Praise His Name, Hallelujah, Lord!  
Holy Jesus, Praise His Name. Oh, Hallelujah! Praise His Name.  
Praise His Holy Name, Praise Him!

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel: Matthew 21:23–32 Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>23</sup>When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

**Hymn** At the Name of Jesus

#416

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the Church**

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

... Merciful God,  
**Receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

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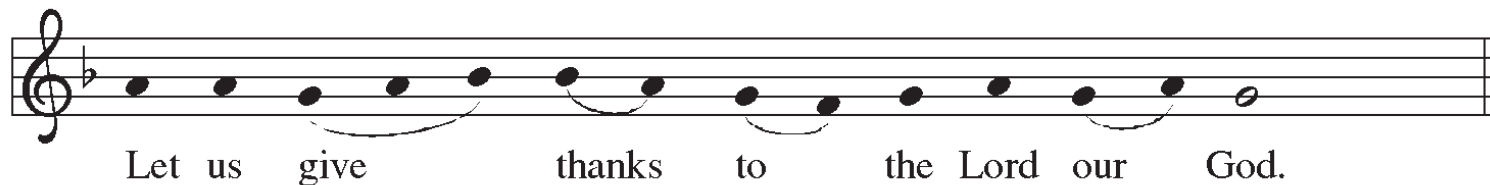
MEAL

## **Offering**

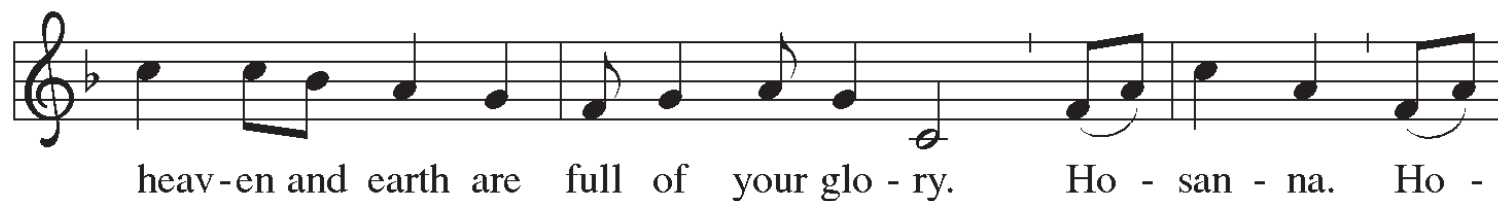




## Great Thanksgiving



It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

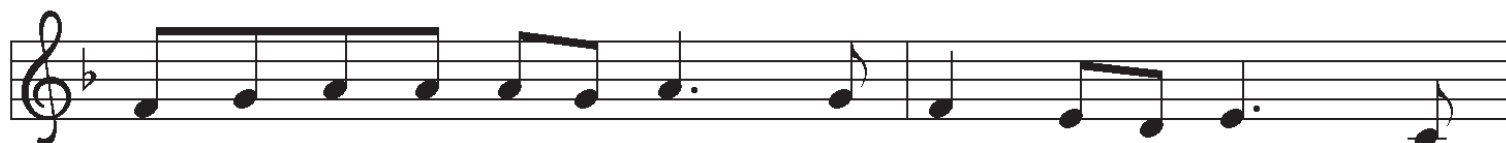


## Eucharistic Prayer

### Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Communion



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Prayer After Communion

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

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## SENDING

### Blessing

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Hymn

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

#712

### Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

Tocatta from Symphony 5

Charles-Marie Widor

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**Minister:** Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

**Assisting Minister:** Arthur Grothe

**Reader:** Jan Adams

**Organist:** Elaine Mann

**Choir Director:** Diana Cataldi

## Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: [info@grace-church.org](mailto:info@grace-church.org)

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: [pastorphil@grace-church.org](mailto:pastorphil@grace-church.org)

Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org> go to “Our Ministry.”

*Bulletins can also be found at <https://grace-church.org/> under the “Our Ministry.”*

Recordings of worship services are also broadcast on:

- Televised on Sundays 10:30am WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)
- Radio Service Sunday 8:30am WAYY 790 AM

If you missed one of our services, they are posted at “Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin” YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uck3CdLQ1sDO6esaa3zUMKCQ>

Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Thursday by 12:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at [info@grace-church.org](mailto:info@grace-church.org) or by calling the office at 715-832-9713